

were evaluated in field trials conducted under APHIS permits in 1992 and 1993, and under APHIS notifications in 1993 and 1994. In the process of reviewing the applications for those field trials, APHIS determined that these plants would not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination.

In the Federal Plant Pest Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 150aa *et seq.*), "plant pest" is defined as "any living stage of: Any insect, mites, nematodes, slugs, snails, protozoa, or other invertebrate animals, bacteria, fungi, other parasitic plants or reproductive parts thereof, viruses, or any organisms similar to or allied with any of the foregoing, or any infectious substances, which can directly or indirectly injure or cause disease or damage in any plants or parts thereof, or any processed, manufactured or other products of plants." APHIS views this definition very broadly. The definition covers direct or indirect injury, disease or damage not just to agricultural crops, but also to plants in general, for example, native species, as well as to organisms that may be beneficial to plants, for example, honeybees, rhizobia, etc.

Several issues associated with GRC Events T14 and T25 are also currently subject to regulation by other agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for the regulation of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 135 *et seq.*). FIFRA requires that all pesticides, including herbicides, be registered prior to distribution or sale, unless exempt by regulation. Plants that have been genetically modified for tolerance or resistant to herbicides are not regulated under FIFRA because the plants themselves are not themselves considered pesticides.

In cases in which the genetically modified plants allow for a new use of an herbicide or involve a different use pattern for the herbicide, EPA must approve the new or different use. In conducting such an approval, EPA considers the possibility of adverse effects to human health and the environment from the use of this herbicide.

When the use of the herbicide on the genetically modified plant would result in an increase in the residues of the herbicide in a food or feed crop for which the herbicide is currently registered, or in new residues in a crop for which the herbicide is not currently registered, establishment of a new tolerance or a revision of the existing

tolerance would be required. Residue tolerances for pesticides are established by the EPA under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FEDCA) (21 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.*), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) enforces tolerances set by the EPA under the FFDCa.

The FDA publishes a statement of policy on foods derived from new plant varieties in the Federal Register on May 29, 1992 (57 FR 22984-23005). The FDA statement of policy includes a discussion of the FDA's authority for ensuring food safety under the FFDCa, and provides guidance to industry on the scientific considerations associated with the development of foods derived from new plant varieties, including those developed through the techniques of genetic engineering.

In accordance with § 340.6(d) of the regulations, we are publishing this notice to inform the public that APHIS will accept written comments regarding the Petition for Determination of Nonregulated Status from any interested person for a period of 60 days from the date of this notice. The petition and any comments received are available for public review, and copies of the petition may be ordered (see the "ADDRESSES" section of this notice).

After the comment period closes, APHIS will review the data submitted by the petitioner, all written comments received during the comment period, and any other relevant information. Based on the available information, APHIS will furnish a response to the petitioner, either approving the petition in whole or in part, or denying the petition. APHIS will then publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing the regulatory status of AgrEvo's GRC Events T14 and T25 and the availability of APHIS' written decision.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 150aa-150jj, 151-167, and 1622n; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.17, 2.51, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of February 1995.

Terry L. Medley,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 95-4741 Filed 2-24-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-427-813]

Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From France

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 27, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Penelope Naas or Gary Bettger, Office of Countervailing Investigations, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482-3534 or 482-2239, respectively.

Final Determination

We determine that certain carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from France are being sold in the United States at less than fair value, as provided in section 735 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the "Act"). The estimated margin is shown in the "Suspension of Liquidation" section of this notice.

Case History

Since the publication of the preliminary determination in the Federal Register on October 4, 1994 (59 FR 50565), the following events have occurred:

On October 5, 1994, pursuant to § 353.20(b)(1) of the Department's regulations, Interfit, S.A. ("Interfit"), requested that the final determination in this case be postponed. On November 14, 1994, the Department published in the Federal Register a notice postponing the publication of the final determination in this case no later than February 16, 1995 (59 FR 56461).

From October 10 through October 14, 1994, we verified the responses of Interfit at its offices in Maubeuge, France and Starval in Marly La Ville, France, respectively. On October 17, 1994, we conducted a verification of related party and certain other issues at Vallourec Group Headquarters in Boulogne-Bilancourt, France. During the period of December 20 to 21, 1994, we verified the responses of Interfit, Starval and Vallourec Inc. in Houston, Texas. From December 12 to December 16, 1994, we verified Interfit's cost of production data at its offices in Maubeuge.

On January 23, 1995, and on January 30, 1995, petitioner and respondent submitted case and rebuttal briefs to the

Department. On February 1, 1995, the Department held a public hearing in this investigation.

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are certain carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings having an inside diameter of less than fourteen inches (355 millimeters), imported in either finished or unfinished condition. Pipe fittings are formed or forged steel products used to join pipe sections in piping systems where conditions require permanent welded connections, as distinguished from fittings based on other methods of fastening (e.g., threaded, grooved, or bolted fittings). Butt-weld fittings come in a variety of shapes which include "elbows," "tees," "caps," and "reducers." The edges of finished pipe fittings are beveled, so that when a fitting is placed against the end of a pipe (the ends of which have also been beveled), a shallow channel is created to accommodate the "bead" of the weld which joins the fitting to the pipe. These pipe fittings are currently classifiable under subheading 7307.93.3000 of the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* ("HTSUS"). Although the HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and Customs purposes, our written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Period of Investigation

The period of investigation ("POI") is September 1, 1993, through February 28, 1994.

Fair Value Comparisons

To determine whether Interfit's sales for export to the United States were made at less than fair value, we compared the United States price ("USP") to the foreign market value ("FMV"), as specified in the "United States Price" and "Foreign Market Value" sections of this notice.

Regarding level of trade, Interfit reported that it sells only to distributors in the United States and the home market.

We made revisions to Interfit's reported data, where appropriate, based on findings at verification.

United States Price

Because Interfit's U.S. sales of certain carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings were made to an unrelated distributor in the United States prior to importation, and the exporter's sales price methodology was not indicated by other circumstances, we based USP on the purchase price ("PP") sales

methodology in accordance with section 772(b) of the Act.

We calculated Interfit's USP sales based on packed, c.i.f., duty paid, landed prices to unrelated customers in the United States. We made deductions, where appropriate, for foreign inland freight, foreign brokerage, marine insurance, ocean freight, U.S. brokerage, U.S. duties, and rebates. Reported U.S. duties were adjusted based on information collected at verification.

We made an adjustment to USP for value-added tax ("VAT") assessed on comparison sales in France in accordance with our practice, pursuant to the Court of International Trade ("CIT") decision in *Federal-Mogul, et al. v. United States*, 834 F. Supp. 1391. See, *Preliminary Antidumping Duty Determination: Color Negative Photographic Paper and Chemical Components from Japan* (59 FR 16177, 16179, April 6, 1994), for an explanation of this tax methodology.

Foreign Market Value

In order to determine whether there was a sufficient volume of sales in the home market to serve as a viable basis for calculating FMV, we compared the volume of home market sales of subject merchandise to the volume of third country sales of subject merchandise, in accordance with section 773(a)(1)(B) of the Act. On this basis, we determined that the home market was viable.

In its May 13, 1994, response, Interfit reported that all home market sales were made to distributors, three of which were related to Interfit. Based on information verified in this investigation, we do not consider Interfit's indirect minority interest in Hardy-Tortaux ("H-T") and Trouvay & Cauvin ("T&C") to be a sufficient basis to determine that the parties are "related," as defined in section 771(13) of the Act and 19 CFR 353.45(b). See, the Department's concurrence memorandum from the preliminary determination (September 26, 1994, at page 3). However, with respect to the third related distributor, Starval, we determined that its relationship to Interfit (e.g., 100 percent common ownership) satisfies the definition of a related party.

Therefore, we compared Interfit's prices to Starval with Interfit's prices to unrelated parties using the arm's length test as set forth in Appendix II to *Final Determination of Sales at Less than Fair Value: Certain Cold-rolled Carbon Steel Flat Products from Argentina*, 58 FR 37062 (July 9, 1994), and determined that the sales made to Starval were not at arm's length. Accordingly, we requested and received Starval's sales to

unrelated customers in the home market. While verifying Starval's sales response, we found that several sales had been reported a number of times. This rendered Starval's home market database unusable for purposes of the final determination. Thus, we have disregarded a small portion of Interfit's home market sales and used sales made by Interfit directly to unrelated parties.

Cost of Production

Petitioner alleged that Interfit made home market sales during the POI at prices below the cost of production ("COP"). Based on petitioner's allegation, we concluded that we had reasonable grounds to believe or suspect that sales were made below COP. In the course of this investigation, we gathered and verified data on production costs.

For purposes of the preliminary determination, because Interfit's cost data was incomplete and submitted too late for consideration, as best information available ("BIA"), we made an adverse assumption that all home market sales were below the COP and based foreign market value on constructed value ("CV"). We then calculated the CV using Vallourec's transfer prices. We stated that we would verify whether those prices were at arm's length.

For the final determination, however, we have reviewed and analyzed respondents COP data. In accordance with our standard practice, we asked Interfit to provide cost data for inputs produced by related parties. Interfit failed to provide data on the cost of pipe, a major input, produced by its related supplier, Vallourec. Therefore, we have valued the input on the basis of BIA and used the resulting COP to test home market sale prices. As BIA we adjusted the transfer prices for the input upward by the average difference between petitioner's acquisition cost of pipe, as reported in the petition, and the transfer price Interfit pays to its supplier.

In order to determine whether home market prices were below the COP within the meaning of section 773(b) of the Act, we performed a product-specific cost test, in which we examined whether each product sold in the home market during the POI was priced below the COP of that product. We calculated COP based on the sum of Interfit's cost of materials, fabrication, general expenses, and packing, in accordance with 19 CFR 353.51(c). For each product, we compared this sum to the home market unit price, net of movement expenses, rebates and selling expenses. We made changes, where appropriate, to submitted COP data, as

discussed above and in the *Interested Party Comments* section of this notice, below.

In accordance with section 773(b) of the Act, we also examined whether the home market sales of each product were made at prices below their COP in substantial quantities over an extended period of time, and whether such sales were made at prices that would permit recovery of all costs within a reasonable period of time in the normal course of trade.

For each product where less than ten percent, by quantity, of the home market sales during the POI were made at prices below the COP, we included all sales of that model for the computation of FMV. For each product where ten percent or more, but less than 90 percent, of the home market sales during the POI were priced below the COP, we disregarded from the calculation of FMV those home market sales which were priced below the COP, provided that the below-cost sales of that product were made over an extended period of time. Where we found that more than 90 percent of respondent's sales were at prices below the COP, and such sales were over an extended period of time, we disregarded all sales of that product.

In order to determine whether below-cost sales had been made over an extended period of time, in accordance with section 773(b)(1) of the Act, we compared the number of months in which below-cost sales occurred for each product to the number of months in the POI in which that product was sold. If a product was sold in three or more months of the POI, we did not exclude below-cost sales unless there were below-cost sales in at least three months during the POI. When we found that sales of a product only occurred in one or two months, the number of months in which the sales occurred constituted the extended period of time; *i.e.*, where sales of a product were made in only two months, the extended period of time was two months, where sales of a product were made in only one month, the extended period of time was one month. (See *Preliminary Results and Partial Termination of Antidumping Duty Administrative Reviews: Tapered Roller Bearings, Four Inches or Less in Outside Diameter, and Components Thereof, From Japan* (58 FR 69336, 69338, December 10, 1993).

Interfit provided no indication that its below cost sales were at prices that would permit recovery of all costs within a reasonable period of time and in the normal course of trade. (See, section 773(b)(2); 19 U.S.C. 1677b(b)(2)).

Constructed Value

Where all home market sales of a product were disregarded, we based FMV on CV. We calculated CV based on the sum of the adjusted cost of materials, fabrication, general expenses, U.S. packing costs and profit. We adjusted the cost of materials as discussed in the *Interested Party Comments* section of this notice, below. In accordance with section 773(e)(1)(B) (i) and (ii) of the Act, we (1) included the greater of Interfit's reported general expenses or the statutory minimum of ten percent of the cost of manufacture ("COM"), as appropriate, and (2) for profit, we used the statutory minimum of eight percent of the sum of COM and general expenses.

Price-to-Price Comparisons

For price-to-price comparisons, we calculated FMV based on ex-factory or delivered prices, inclusive of packing to home market customers. We deducted rebates, where appropriate. We also deducted home market packing costs and added U.S. packing costs in accordance with section 773(a)(1) of the Act.

In light of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit's decision in *Ad Hoc Committee of AZ-NM-TX-FL Producers of Gray Portland Cement V. United States*, 13 F. 3d 398 (Fed. Cir., January 5, 1994), the Department can no longer deduct home market movement charges from FMV pursuant to the Department's inherent power to fill in gaps in the antidumping statute. Instead, we adjust for direct movement expenses under the circumstance-of-sale provision of 19 CFR 353.56(a). Accordingly, in the present case, we deducted post-sale home market movement charges from the FMV under the circumstance-of-sale provision of 19 CFR 353.56(a). This adjustment included home market inland freight and insurance.

For both price-to-price comparisons and comparisons to CV, we made circumstance-of-sale adjustments, where appropriate, for differences in credit expenses, pursuant to 19 CFR 353.56(a)(2). In calculating U.S. credit expense, we used the respondent's cost of borrowing in U.S. dollars during the POI. In instances where Interfit had not reported a shipment and/or payment date, we recalculated Interfit's reported credit expense.

We have not made a deduction for direct selling expenses reported by respondent because we determined that these expenses (product liability and inventory carrying costs) are, in fact, indirect selling expenses. However, we have deducted indirect selling expenses,

capped by the commissions paid to Vallourec Inc., a related party in the U.S. market. For the preliminary determination, we did not recognize these commissions because we did not have an appropriate benchmark against which to test whether the commission arrangement was at arm's length. However, we verified that Interfit pays the same commissions to both related and unrelated parties, with the exception of a single unrelated party that receives a higher rate. In *LMI-La Metalli Industriale, S.p.A. v. United States*, 912 F.2d 455, 459 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (*LMI*), the CAFC indicated that related party commissions can and should be adjusted for if the commissions are at arm's length and are directly related to the sales under review. Because the vast majority of commissions to related and unrelated parties are at a single rate, we find these conditions are met in this case. Therefore, we deducted indirect expenses incurred for home market sales up to the amount of the U.S. commission. We then added the U.S. commission to the FMV or CV, as appropriate.

We adjusted for VAT in the home market in accordance with our practice. (See the *United States Price* section of this notice, above.)

Currency Conversion

We made currency conversions based on the official exchange rates in effect on the dates of the U.S. sales as certified by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. See 19 CFR 353.60.

Final Negative Determination of Critical Circumstances

Petitioner alleged that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of pipe fittings from France. In our preliminary determination, pursuant to section 773(e)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 353.16, we analyzed the allegation using the Department's standard methodology. Because no additional information has been submitted since the preliminary determination, the Department performed the same analysis as explained in its preliminary finding. Based on this analysis, the Department determines, in accordance with section 773(a)(3) of the Act, that critical circumstances do not exist with respect to imports of certain carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from France.

Verification

As provided in section 776(b) of the Act, we verified information provided by the respondent using standard verification procedures, including the

examination of relevant sales, cost and financial records, and selection of original source documentation. The public versions of the January 10, 1995, verification reports are available in the Central Unit located in room B-99 of the Department's main building, the Herbert C. Hoover building.

Interested Party Comments

Comment 1

Petitioner contends that Interfit willfully refused, on four separate occasions, to provide from its related party, Vallourec Industries ("Vallourec"), the actual cost of producing carbon steel pipe, a major input in the production of the subject merchandise. Petitioner argues that by repeatedly refusing to respond to the Department's requests for this information, Interfit has not allowed the Department to properly conduct this investigation. Therefore, the Department should apply adverse best information available ("BIA") in the final determination. Petitioner notes that the BIA approach employed at the preliminary determination (*i.e.*, the assumption that all home market sales are below COP) rewards Interfit for its failure to cooperate. Accordingly, as BIA, the Department should use the margin reported for France in the petition or, in the alternative, the highest non-aberrational margin calculated for Interfit in the preliminary determination.

Interfit argues that it informed the Department that it was willing to accept the consequences of not supplying the cost information, as this task would have required Interfit to provide cost information from four separate related manufacturing units. Thus, Interfit is prepared to accept a BIA finding that all home market sales were below COP.

DOC Position

In light of Interfit's cooperation in this investigation, we disagree with petitioner's argument that the Department should use total BIA in the form of the margin reported for France in the petition, or the highest non-aberrant margin calculated for Interfit in the preliminary determination. Our use of partial BIA is adequate because it allows us to draw an adverse assumption only with respect to the information that Interfit failed to provide. Because we were able to perform a BIA cost test, we have adequately ensured that Interfit does not benefit from its failure to provide information. Therefore, total BIA is unnecessary.

Comment 2

Regarding the constructed value, petitioner contends that the prices from Vallourec to Interfit for carbon steel pipe do not satisfy the statutory requirements outlined in section 773(e)(2). According to petitioner, section 773(e)(2) requires Interfit to demonstrate that: (1) It has sales to unrelated customers in the market under consideration (*i.e.*, France); (2) the prices to those unrelated customers are for pipe that was "identical or demonstrably comparable to the pipe used by Interfit;" and (3) the prices that Interfit pays Vallourec are at arm's length. By its own admission, Interfit cannot satisfy the first two elements of the statute, because it concedes that "Vallourec sells no similar pipe to unrelated customers in France." With respect to the third element, according to petitioner, the Department's verification of the prices charged by Vallourec to Interfit and to other unrelated customers demonstrate that the prices to Interfit are preferential.

Thus, petitioner argues that the Department should disregard the transfer prices and use the actual cost of producing the input supplied by Vallourec (carbon steel pipe). However, because Interfit repeatedly refused to provide Vallourec's actual cost of producing carbon steel pipe, the Department is prevented from determining CV and conducting a complete investigation. Therefore, the Department should apply best information available ("BIA") in the final determination. In particular, the Department should use the margin reported for France in the petition or, in the alternative, the highest non-aberrational margin calculated for Interfit in the preliminary determination.

Lastly, Petitioner argues that even if the Department determines that transfer prices between Vallourec and Interfit are at arm's length, the Department has "reasonable grounds to believe or suspect" that the transfer price of the carbon steel pipe is less than the cost of producing the pipe. Petitioner contends that several factors in this investigation provide the Department with "reasonable grounds to believe or suspect" that Interfit purchased the pipe from Vallourec at less than the COP. Most notably, petitioner claims Interfit did not provide evidence that Vallourec's price for the pipe was above the cost of producing such pipe, even though the information was requested by the Department numerous times.

Petitioner thus argues that, because the Department has "reasonable grounds

to believe or suspect" that pipe is being sold at less than COP, even if the transfer prices are accepted under section 773(e)(2), those prices cannot be used in determining CV. Rather, the Department should apply adverse BIA in the final determination, as detailed above.

Interfit claims that the prices it pays to Vallourec reflect the market value (*i.e.*, they are arm's length prices) and therefore, in accordance with section 773(e)(2), should be used for purposes of calculating constructed value. To substantiate its claim that the transfer prices between Vallourec and Interfit are arm's length, Interfit has provided the Department with prices of similar pipe sold to unrelated customers in the European Union ("E.U."). Interfit argues that, because "the E.U. is a fully integrated market, with no barriers to trade between its members," these sales are, in fact, in the same market (*i.e.*, the market under consideration). Interfit also contends that the term "merchandise under consideration" includes both similar and identical merchandise, not only identical merchandise. With respect to the arm's length nature of these sales, Interfit argues that information submitted in this investigation demonstrates that the prices Vallourec charges Interfit are comparable to the prices charged to unrelated customers for almost identical pipe. Moreover, the pipe sold to Vallourec's unrelated customers includes additional processing costs which are not included in the pipe sold to Interfit. These additional costs would more than account for the difference in price. Thus, pursuant to section 773(e)(2), Interfit claims that the Department should use the transfer prices in calculating CV.

With respect to section 773(e)(3), Interfit claims that this section contains a presumption that transfer prices are valid for purposes of calculating CV unless the Department has "reasonable grounds to believe or suspect" that they are below COP. To support its claim, Interfit cites *Al Tech Specialty Steel Corporation v. United States*, 575 F.Supp. 1277, 1282 (C.I.T. 1983); *FMC Corp. v. United States*, 3 F.3d 424 (CAFC 1993); and *Antifriction Bearings (Other Than Tapered Roller Bearings) and Parts Thereof From the Federal Republic of Germany*, 54 FR 18992, 19020, Comment 4 (1989). Therefore, where constructed value is concerned, petitioner, not respondent, must first provide evidence that the transfer prices are below COP; a simple allegation by petitioner is not sufficient. Interfit also argues that its failure to provide evidence that the transfer prices were

above COP does not imply that they were below cost.

Interfit claims that the concurrence memorandum from the preliminary determination (September 26, 1994, at page 3) and a November 15, 1994 letter from the Department to the counsel for Interfit, led the company to believe that the transfer prices would be used so long as they were determined to be at arm's length. Interfit assumed that if the Department had at that time "reasonable grounds" to believe that the pipe was sold to Interfit at less than the COP, the Department would have stated that cost was an issue.

DOC Position

The fact that Interfit failed to provide evidence that Vallourec's price for the input pipe was above the cost of producing the pipe, despite numerous requests from the Department for this information, provides the Department with "reasonable grounds to believe or suspect" that the transfer prices paid by Interfit were less than Vallourec's cost of production. Therefore, in computing the CV, we have valued the pipe on the basis of the BIA used to calculate COP for the home market sales below cost test. Because the transfer prices have been disregarded in accordance with section 773(e)(3) of the Act, we do not need to address the issue of whether the transfer prices satisfy the criteria under section 773(e)(2). The Department's preliminary determination expressly noted that whether the transfer prices were at arm's length would be examined at verification. In addition, the Department continued to pursue data that would confirm that the transfer prices are above COP. See, Supplemental/Deficiency Section D Questionnaire (November 15, 1994), Section D Verification Agenda (December 5, 1994), Fax to Counsel for Interfit (December 8, 1994), and Section D Verification Report (January 12, 1995). Therefore, contrary to Interfit's claims, the question of cost remained an issue.

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 735(c)(4) of the Act, we are directing the U.S. Customs Service to continue to suspend liquidation of all entries of butt-weld pipe fittings from France, as defined in the "Scope of Investigation" section of this notice, that are produced and sold by Interfit and that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after October 4, 1994.

The Customs Service shall require a cash deposit or the posting of a bond equal to the estimated weighted-average amount by which the foreign market

value of the subject merchandise exceeds the United States price as shown below. The suspension of liquidation will remain in effect until further notice. The weighted-average dumping margins are as follows:

Manufacturer/producer/exporter	Margin (percent)
Interfit, S.A.	32.58
All Others	32.58

ITC Notification

In accordance with section 735(d) of the Act, we have notified the ITC of our determination.

Notice to Interested Parties

This notice also serves as the only reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 353.35(d). Failure to comply is a violation of the APO.

This determination is published pursuant to section 735(d) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1671(d)).

Dated: February 16, 1995.

Barbara R. Stafford,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 95-4724 Filed 2-24-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

[A-508-807]

Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Israel

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 27, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Yeske or Gary Bettger, Office of Countervailing Investigations, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482-0189 and 482-2239, respectively.

Final Determination

We determine that certain carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Israel are being sold in the United States at less than fair value, as provided in section 735 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the "Act"). The estimated margin is shown in the "Suspension of Liquidation" section of this notice.

Case History

Since the publication of the preliminary determination in the Federal Register on October 4, 1994 (59 FR 50568), the following events have occurred:

On October 5, 1994, pursuant to section 353.20(b)(1) of the Department's regulations (19 CFR 353.20(b)(1)(1994), Pipe Fittings Carmiel, Inc. ("Carmiel") requested that the final determination in this case be postponed. On November 14, 1994, the Department published in the Federal Register a notice postponing the publication of the final determination in this case until not later than February 16, 1995 (59 FR 56461).

On October 20, 1994, Carmiel filed a second supplemental/deficiency response, which included a revised home market sales listing. On November 27, November 28, and December 4, 1994, we verified Carmiel's sales information at its offices in Tel Aviv, Israel. On January 23, 1995, and on January 30, 1995, petitioner and respondent submitted case and rebuttal briefs to the Department.

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are certain carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings having an inside diameter of less than fourteen inches (355 millimeters), imported in either finished or unfinished condition. Pipe fittings are formed or forged steel products used to join pipe sections in piping systems where conditions require permanent welded connections, as distinguished from fittings based on other methods of fastening (e.g., threaded, grooved, or bolted fittings). Butt-weld fittings come in a variety of shapes which include "elbows," "tees," "caps," and "reducers." The edges of finished pipe fittings are beveled, so that when a fitting is placed against the end of a pipe (the ends of which have also been beveled), a shallow channel is created to accommodate the "bead" of the weld which joins the fitting to the pipe. These pipe fittings are currently classifiable under subheading 7307.93.3000 of the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* ("HTSUS"). Although the HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and customs purposes, our written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Period of Investigation

The period of investigation ("POI") is September 1, 1993, through February 28, 1994.